

INFORMATION REPORT

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East Central China

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1. From 1 to 15 December 1950 shipping on the Yangtze River totaled 191,130 tons. Fuel shipments totaled 88,062 tons, army and other government cargo 13,280 tons, and commercial freight and passengers 89,788 tons.
2. In early January the Hankow Shipping Administration was planning to take over control of all wharves and warehouses of foreign firms in Hankow on orders from the Central and South China Military and Administrative Committee.*
3. During December Communist authorities in the Hankow-Wuchang area were tightening their controls over commerce and industry. Economic conditions in Wuchang were especially bad, and large numbers of unemployed were joining the army as "volunteers" to prevent starvation. Hundreds of persons suspected of anti-Communist activities were being arrested and executed in both Hankow and Wuchang.**
4. On 6 November Shanghai authorities canceled all checks issued by government-controlled firms in Shanghai during October.
5. In early November the Chekiang provincial government established a committee to control the cotton market in the province. On 14 November it decreed that cotton be sold at prices fixed by the government and that the quality of cotton sold meet standards to be established by the government.

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6. In early December Communist-controlled trade unions in Shanghai handled all hiring of employees for shops and factories in Shanghai. Municipal authorities were placing the unemployed in labor battalions to repair or construct roads in the Shanghai area or other areas of China.***
7. In early December a male applicant for a permanent residence certificate in Shanghai was required to be married and have a guarantee from a Shanghai shopkeeper or other businessman.
8. In November farmers in the Wenchow area of Chekiang Province were required to pay as much as 90 percent of their farm yield in taxes. If they failed to pay the taxes they were compelled to sell their land and homes to local Communist authorities at very low prices.
9. Children between the ages of 2 and 12 in the Wenchow area were being separated from their families and placed under the care of elderly women. Parents were permitted to visit their children about once a week.
10. Pro-Nationalist guerrillas were very active in the Wenchow area.***

- 25X1 * [] Comment: There are a number of reports on the movement of troops to Hankow by water. [] 25X1
- 25X1 ** [] Comment: In late December about 10,000 persons including former Nationalist military personnel and unemployed persons were arrested in Hankow. []
- 25X1 *** [] Comment: In December public utility organizations in Shanghai were losing money because of the fuel shortage, and oil companies were dismissing their personnel. []
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